

AUTOMATIC VIEWING-HISTORY BASED TELEVISION CONTROL SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for automatically building, updating and using television channel selection lists for enhanced television (TV) control. A TV controller is placed in communication with a TV-programming display such that at least some of the multi-channel programming input is routed to the TV through the TV controller. Initially all channels in the multichannel input stream are accorded equal weight values. A television viewer selects the programming material for display in the normal fashion. A display-time timer located in the TV controller measures the amount of time a viewer spends watching each channel and this information is recorded in a viewer-history log in a database of the TV controller. A processor of the TV controller, under the direction of a control program, periodically reviews the viewer-history log, and uses the viewing time information stored there to assign weighted values to each viewed station. These weighted values are then applied to a channel selection control list. The list, which now contains up-to-date viewer-preference information, is used to control the channel-selection process and to generate on-screen menus for use in enhanced channel control.

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